

**State of Vermont**

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To: CANS Implementation Team  
From: Alison Krompf, Deputy Commissioner  
Cheryle Wilcox, Mental Health Collaborations Director and Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Implementation Team Co-Chair  
RE: CANS Certification Requirements for Vermont  
Date: July 19, 2023

At DMH, we are acutely aware of the administrative burden on our mental health agencies where we have unprecedented vacancies; we want to decrease that burden wherever appropriate so support to children, youth, and families can be the main focus. To that end, beginning May 1, 2023, the Department of Mental Health has secured agreement from Praed for the following to occur:

- Praed has agreed to *pilot* a two-year certification option.
  - The two-year certification would be triggered by a .80 test score. (The requirement is .70 for a one-year certification).
- Agency members who administer the CANS can take the test any time to get an .80; this is not dependent on how many years someone has been doing the CANS, but rather by how well one understands the concepts as shown in the test score.
- If someone gets below .80, they can take it again right then, or any time.
- As soon as .80 is achieved, two years of certification begins from that date.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Cheryle.Wilcox@vermont.gov](mailto:Cheryle.Wilcox@vermont.gov)